Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres in West Bengal

3372. SHRI S. K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to establish Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme "Establishment of Agri-Clinics & Agri-Business Centres (ACABC)" was launched in April, 2002 by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The objective of the scheme is to provide extension and other services to farmers on payment basis through economically viable self employment ventures. The selected agriculture graduates are provided agri-preneurship training for a period of two months in identified Nodal Training Institutions, which also provide handholding support to the trained graduates in setting-up of their self-employment ventures.

This Scheme is under implementation in West Bengal, where 236 agri-graduates have so far been trained at two training institutes *viz.* (i) Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Mohanpur, Nadia, and (ii) Netaji Subhash Regional Institute of Cooperative Management, Kalyani, Ending Nov, 05, 156 & 80 candidates have been trained at these institutes respectively. Of which, 49 have set up such ventures.

(c) Does not arise.

Growth rate of Agriculture

3373. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for growth of agriculture during each of the last 3 years;